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- a) the independent supply chain management system collecting data from a plurality of stores of a supply chain utilizing a network, the data relating to the sale of goods by the stores;
  - b) allowing access to the data utilizing a network-based interface;
  - c) the independent supply chain management system generating and then sending out to a distributor an electronic order form based on the data relating to multiple completed sales of goods by a store of the supply chain, the electronic order form requesting a confirmation of the receipt of the electronic order form;
  - d) determining whether the confirmation of the receipt of the electronic order form is received by the independent supply chain management system from the distributor;
  - e) the independent supply chain management system generating an alert upon determining that the independent supply chain management system did not receive the confirmation of the receipt of the electronic order form from the distributor.
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7. (Amended) A system for order confirmation in an independent supply chain management system that ~~may or may not mandate store=distributor relationships in a supply chain,~~ comprising:

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- a) logic for the independent supply chain management system collecting data from a plurality of stores of a supply chain utilizing a network, the data relating to the sale of goods by the stores;
  - b) logic for allowing access to the data utilizing a network-based interface;
  - c) logic for the independent supply chain management system generating and then sending out to a distributor an electronic order form based on the data relating to multiple completed sales of goods by a store of the supply chain, the electronic order form requesting a confirmation of the receipt of the electronic order form;
  - d) logic for determining whether the confirmation of the receipt of the electronic order form is received by the independent supply chain management system from the distributor;
  - e) logic for the independent supply chain management system generating an alert upon determining that the independent supply chain management system did not receive the confirmation of the receipt of the electronic order form from the distributor.
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13. (Amended) A computer program for order confirmation in an independent supply chain management system that ~~may or may not mandate store-distributor relationships in a supply chain~~, comprising:

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- a) computer code for the independent supply chain management system collecting data from a plurality of stores of a supply chain utilizing a network, the data relating to the sale of goods by the stores;
  - b) computer code for allowing access to the data utilizing a network-based interface;
  - c) computer code for the independent supply chain management system generating and then sending out to a distributor an electronic order form based on the data relating to multiple completed sales of goods by a store of the supply chain, the electronic order form requesting a confirmation of the receipt of the electronic order form;
  - d) computer code for determining whether the confirmation of the receipt of the electronic order form is received by the independent supply chain management system from the distributor;
  - e) computer code for the independent supply chain management system generating an alert upon determining that the independent supply chain management system did not receive the confirmation of the receipt of the electronic order form from the distributor.